

AIRPORT REGIONALIZATION

During the past several years the Board of Supervisors has directed the Chief Executive Officer on various occasions to prepare and transmit letters to the Executive Director of the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), the members of the City of Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners, and the Los Angeles City Mayor, containing the County's formal requests that the City set forth, in detail, its regionalization plans for the airports operated by LAWA. These efforts culminated in the County's successful lawsuit requiring LAWA to develop a regional approach to air service.

These actions have yet to produce a viable and comprehensive regionalization plan for the Palmdale Regional Airport and LA/Ontario International Airport. Under LAWA's management, Palmdale Regional Airport ceased operations in December of 2008 and LA/Ontario International Airport, as reported in a recent Riverside Press-Enterprise article dated December 22, 2010, has experienced a loss of airlines operating from the airport and reductions in the number of available flights. These circumstances require the travelling public from the northern and eastern communities of Los Angeles County to use Los Angeles International Airport. The actions and the results are counter to the settlement agreement the County of Los Angeles reached with LAWA and the City of Los Angeles.

The City of Palmdale, with support from the County, has been working to assume local control of Palmdale Regional Airport operations and the terminal building lease from LAWA. A similar action is now being researched and contemplated by the City of Ontario for LA/Ontario International Airport.

- M O R E -

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOLINA _____

Unfortunately, even though LAWA has demonstrated a lack of interest in Palmdale Regional Airport and has relinquished its FAA operating permit, LAWA has refused to give up the airport terminal's lease, which continues in effect through 2011. This action prohibits the City of Palmdale, and their newly appointed Airport Division, from taking control of the airport and identifying and working with potential airlines interested in offering flights out of Palmdale Regional Airport. LAWA's effort has created a chilling effect on the multi-jurisdictional efforts to provide air service to Northern Los Angeles County and to regionalize air service for the Los Angeles basin.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the County Counsel to:

1. Determine whether LAWA's lease terminations at Palmdale Regional Airport are consistent with County settlement agreement regarding regionalization;
2. Examine all necessary legal action to support the City of Palmdale's desire to immediately assume control over the commercial airport and terminal operations;
and
3. Report back to the Board of Supervisors on the above findings.

I, FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and transmit a letter to the Executive Director of the Los Angeles World Airports, the members of the City of Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners, and the Los Angeles City Mayor, requesting them to immediately release all contractual agreements regarding the Palmdale Regional Airport and terminal operations.

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